



What Experts Say about Human Cloning

As the field of medicine continues to advance, scientists and physicians continue to look for ways to treat disease and injuries. One suggestion for treating disease is the use of "patient-specific stem cells." Often, this is just a different way of describing human cloning.

While some scientists and members of the media would like you to believe human cloning – also known as "somatic cell nuclear transfer" – is one of the best ways to find cures for patients, other scientists describe cloning as an impossible scientific experiment.

Here are just a few of their quotes:

Gina Kolata, science writer for the New York Times

“Despite optimistic statements about [therapeutic cloning] curing diseases, almost all researchers, when questioned, confess that such accomplishments are more dream than reality.”

Gina Kolata, January 5, 2003. Doerflinger, R. The Many Casualties of Cloning. The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology and Society, Number 12, Spring 2006.

Ruth Faden, John Gearhart, and eighteen other ethicists and scientists in favor of embryonic stem cell research

"Although, [cloning by somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT)] might, in theory solve the rejection-biological access problem, it can do so only one person at a time. The amount of time and money needed to create these uniquely cloned solutions makes it unlikely that SCNT will provide a practical, widespread solution to the biological access problem."

Ruth Faden, John Gearhart, and eighteen other ethicists and scientists favoring ESC research, in Hastings Center Report, November-December 2003. Doerflinger, R. The Many Casualties of Cloning. The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology and Society, Number 12, Spring 2006.

Alan Trounson, prominent Australian stem cell researcher

“...I can't see why, then, you would argue for therapeutic cloning in the long term because it is so difficult to get eggs and you've got this issue of (destroying) embryos as well.”

Alan Trounson, The Age, July 29, 2002. Doerflinger, R. The Many Casualties of Cloning. The New Atlantis: A Journal of Technology and Society, Number 12, Spring 2006.

Arthur Caplan, leading bioethicist, director of Center for Bioethics at University of Pennsylvania

“I think the last 10 years have shown that cloning is a difficult process to control, often goes wrong, and that many of the reason it goes wrong are probably inextricably tied up to the cloning process itself. I think that will pretty well seal the fate of cloning to make human beings. It will be understood that the price will be too high.” Dr. Arthur Caplan, Lamb, G. *How Cloning Stacks up*. The Christian Science Monitor, 2006.

Rudolf Jaenisch, biologist and biomedical researcher at Massachusetts Institute of Technology:

“You cannot make normal clones. The ones that survive will just be less abnormal than the ones that die early. There has been no progress-none- in the last six years in making cloning more safe. [For human reproduction, cloning] is totally out of the question.”
Lamb, G. How Cloning Stacks up. The Christian Science Monitor, 2006.

“I am appalled that these people are attempting to produce cloned humans. This is irresponsible and repugnant and ignores the overwhelming scientific evidence from seven mammalian species cloned so far. All evidence indicates that most clones die early - the lucky ones - and the rare survivors may have serious abnormalities which may become apparent only later.”
Tagg, Luke. Woman Pregnant with Clone? Cooltech TechNews, 2002.

Ian Wilmut, cloned Dolly the sheep, first cloned mammal

“Cloning is inefficient in all species. Expect the same outcome in humans as in any other species: late abortions, dead children and surviving abnormal children.”
Best, Stephen and Douglas Kellner. Biotechnology, Ethics and the Politics of Cloning. The Postmodern Adventure 2001.